

Contact:

Amy Goggins
Massachusetts Network Communications Council
781-684-0880
amy@massnetcomms.org
www.massnetcomms.org

Melissa Lane
Lois Paul and Partners
781-782-5755
melissa_lane@lpp.com

ACME PACKET, STARENT WIN COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARDS AT MASSNETCOMMS CEREMONY

*Comcast's Roberts Receives Industry Player Award;
Akamai's Sagan and Starent's Dahod Take CEO Awards*

BOSTON, April 5, 2007 – The Massachusetts Networks Communications Council (MassNetComms) named Acme Packet and Starent as Public and Private Companies of the Year respectively at its annual awards ceremony at the Cambridge Hyatt. The council also named Brian Roberts, the CEO of Comcast, Inc, as Industry Player of the Year and John Glaser, Chief Information Officer of Partners Health as CIO of the Year.

“Acme and Starent are the two stars of the Massachusetts tech scene right now” said E. Y. Snowden, Chairman of the MassNetComms Board. “They represent everything we’ve been saying about this industry’s resurgence – they are smart, innovative companies. Acme on the cutting-edge of Internet Protocol networks, and Starent is a driving new mobile technology.”

Acme Packet, which makes session border control products that help bridge Internet Protocol (IP) networks, launched a successful Initial Public Offering and is now an \$84 million company with a large global presence. Starent produces gateways designed to bridge the Internet and the mobile devices, enabling many different kinds of mobile applications. It announced earlier this year that it would file for its own public offering.

Additional Winners

More than 400 network communications executives filled the President’s Ballroom for the event, which included Hall of Fame inductions for Ray Stata, co-founder and chairman of Analog Devices; Bill Poduska, founder of both Prime Computer and Apollo; among other companies. Starent’s Ash Dahod won Private Company CEO of the Year and Akamai’s Paul Sagan won Public Company CEO of the Year.

“This event really underscored how revitalized our industry is and our growing importance in the state’s economy,” said Snowden.

According to a 2005 UMass study, 100,000 Massachusetts residents work in the network communications industry and companies as diverse as communications giant Cisco and up-and-coming VoIP switch company Cedar Point are reporting problems filling jobs.

Snowden said the organization chose Roberts as key industry player because of Comcast's remarkable overall performance and, in particular, its growth and contribution to Massachusetts. Last year, Comcast added 800 jobs in the Commonwealth and invested millions in local network infrastructure as it continued to market its "triple play" - video, Internet, and voice - option.

"Comcast's investments are creating opportunities for our council's small companies, many of which supply network elements and features, like Cedar Point's VoIP technology and Broadbus's video on demand product," said Mark Horan, the Council's executive director. "Comcast's investments have an exponential effect on our economic growth."

The complete list of winners follows:

Key Industry Player

Brian Roberts, Chairman and CEO, Comcast

Largest Private Financing

Optasite

Largest IPO

IPG Photonics

Network Communications Hall Of Fame

Ray Stata, Cofounder and Chairman, Analog Devices

John William Poduska, Founder, Vice President of Research and Director, Prime Computer, Founder, CEO and Chairman, Apollo Computer

Product of the Year

Reva Systems - Tom Schuster

CIO of the Year

John Glaser, Vice-President and Chief Information Officer, Partners HealthCare System

Fastest Growth in Massachusetts, Large Company

Comcast

Fastest Growth in Massachusetts, Small Company

Acme Packet

Best Performance in Public Markets

Navisite

CEO of the Year, Public Company

Paul Sagan, Akamai

CEO of the Year, Private Company

Ashraf Dahod, Starent Networks

Company of the Year, Public

Acme Packet

Company of the Year, Private

Starent Networks

About the Massachusetts Network Communications Council

Based in Waltham, Mass., the Massachusetts Network Communications Council supports more than 230 telecommunications, Internet, software and application companies and affiliated organizations throughout the Commonwealth and New England. MassNetComms works through its members and events, as well as policy and workforce initiatives to promote the Commonwealth as an international center for network communications development and to increase the global presence of local entities. Founded in 1993, MassNetComms provides a regular schedule of informative speakers, panel discussions and debates on current issues in technology and business, industry training and networking opportunities, as well as access to industry information through its Web site. MassNetComms members participate in issues-focused committees, such as workforce development, government affairs, membership, program development and international trade. More information is available at massnetcomms.org.